



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

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## **COUNCIL STEPS FORWARD TO FIX “SLOW- MOTION CRISIS” IN COUNTY STORMWATER FACILITIES**

The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously today to embark on a bold campaign to insure the functioning of the County’s stormwater management facilities.

Stormwater facilities, whether publicly or privately-owned, are designed to protect public health and public and private property, reduce erosion and assist with flood control, maintain water quality, and preserve and enhance local streams and stream valleys.

The legislation will require the County to maintain all on-site stormwater management facilities serving residential properties, create a loan program to allow private owners to upgrade their stormwater facilities, and establish a water quality protection charge as a dedicated funding source. Non-residential facilities that share ponds with homeowners associations will also be included in the charge and maintenance program.

“I’m pleased the Council has taken the lead in addressing a potential crisis,” said Councilmember Isiah Leggett. “We have not had a uniform and comprehensive approach to inspecting and maintaining stormwater facilities. Today’s Council action changes that and gives us a workable blueprint for fixing the problem.”

The program, which would ensure full compliance with federal and state clean water mandates, would be implemented gradually over a ten-year period. The projected annual cost would range from \$1.4 million in the beginning to \$14 million by the tenth year for the full program. The charge would be included on the landowner’s property tax bill. A single-family household might pay an estimated annual charge of \$5.40 for the first three years of a program to maintain residential stormwater facilities.

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